

# UMBRELLA WITH AN INTEGRAL ANCHORING STRUCTURE

## Cross Reference to Related Applications

5 This application is a Continuation of U.S. Application Serial Number 09/862,649 filed May 22, 2001, the specification of which is incorporated herein by reference.

## Field of the Invention

10 The present invention relates to the field of outdoor umbrellas, and in particular to umbrellas with an integral anchoring structure.

## Background of the Invention

When people enjoy the outdoors, such as having a picnic in the countryside or going to the seashore, they often take with them an outdoor umbrella to provide a retreat and shade from the rays of the sun. Outdoor umbrellas generally consist of a retractable umbrella top attached to a post. The post is inserted into the ground by gripping the post and relying on arm strength to forcefully insert the post into the earth. Typical ground conditions for such an outdoor activity may include sand at the beach, lawn in a backyard, or other soil conditions at other picnic locations.

20 These ground conditions are sometimes very compact requiring a great deal of arm strength and effort to obtain insertion of the post into the ground. In very compact ground conditions only a shallow insertion can be achieved. Alternatively, the user may carry with them a shovel or other digging device to create a hole in the ground and then fill the hole back in once the umbrella is inserted. A shallow insertion of the post into the ground creates the risk that the umbrella may tip over under its own weight or that in breezy conditions, or sudden wind gusts the umbrella may be ripped out of the ground and strike person, let alone the inconvenience of having to chase the umbrella down. The shovel solution only adds to the amount and weight of baggage which a person must transport with them on their excursion. And, even

25 the shovel solution may not provide enough compactness around the post of the umbrella to firmly secure it in the earth enough to withstand breezy conditions or sudden wind gusts.

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